

# The Eighty-fourth Annual Report

OF THE

## TRUSTEES

OF THE

# FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

MASSACHUSETTS

For the Year 1936

REYNOLDS PRINTING

New Bedford, Mass.

1937



# Officers of the Free Public Library

FOR THE YEAR 1937

## Trustees

Ex-officio	Terms expire January, 1938
LEO E. J. CARNEY .....	Mayor of the City
FRANCIS H. MURRAY .....	President of the Board of Aldermen
JOHN D. PRATT .....	President of the Common Council

## Elected by the City Council

HANNAH B. ASHLEY,	Term expires April, 1937
CHARLES M. HOLMES,	Term expires April, 1937
COOPER GAW,	Term expires April, 1938
W. A. ROBINSON, JR.,	Term expires April, 1938
FRANK A. MILLIKEN,	Term expires April, 1939
ALICE P. SHOCKLEY,	Term expires April, 1939

## Committees

On Library—

MESSRS. MILLIKEN, GAW, and MRS. SHOCKLEY

On Buildings—

MISS ASHLEY, MESSRS. HOLMES, and ROBINSON

On Finance—

MISS ASHLEY, MESSRS. HOLMES, and ROBINSON

On Branches—

MRS. SHOCKLEY, MESSRS. GAW, and ROBINSON

## Librarian

GEORGE H. TRIPP

## Assistant Librarian

CLEMENT L. YAEGER

## Cataloguer

EDITH H. COBB

## Librarian's Secretary

MINERVA F. MAXFIELD

### **Heads of Departments**

ALICE H. TRIPP .....	Reference Librarian
JANE E. GARDNER .....	Art Librarian
ETHEL WILCOX .....	Children's Librarian
GRACE D. SHERMAN .....	Circulation
L. GERTRUDE WILCOX .....	Genealogical Librarian

### **Desk Attendants and Assistants**

EDITH H. BROADHEAD .....	Delivery Desk
ELSIE COLLINS .....	Ingraham Hall
FLORENCE E. FARWELL .....	Catalogue and Ingraham Hall
LENA D. PAULL .....	Accession and Delivery Desk
STELLA M. FERGUSON .....	Accession and Art Room
MARIA E. MAXFIELD .....	Catalogue, Art, and Genealogical
ANNA CABRAL .....	Accession and Hospital, Desk
JANE T. THURSTON .....	Children's Room and Genealogical Room
MARION H. BONNER .....	Reference Room assistant
LUCY M. LAGASSE .....	Children's Room
MARJORIE COBB .....	Accession, Children's Room, Desk

### **Branches**

North Branch .....	AMANDA DION and ELIZABETH V. STEPHENSON
South Branch .....	CLAIRE RILEY, ELSIE VEEDER, PAULA KENNEDY
West Branch .....	CLOTILDA KOBZA
West Branch Reading Room .....	FLORENCE E. PERRY

### **Pages**

KATHLEEN U. LAWLESS .....	WALTER LAWLESS
SYLVIA CIABURRI .....	JOHN REED
THELMA SWIFT .....	LEONARD PERRY

### **Elevator Operators**

FRED SENFT.	RICHARD CONNOR
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### **Janitors**

GEORGE SUNDERLAND .....	GARRISON L. OLIVER
GEORGE BRIGHTMAN .....	MARY WATSON, duster

### **Cleaners**

MARY ALMEIDA .....	MINNIE ST. JOHN
	MARY NORWOOD
ELNORA WILLIAMS, cleaner North and South Branches	
MARY E. MORROW, cleaner West Branch	

## TRUSTEE'S REPORT

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*To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of New Bedford, Mass.*

The trustees present their eighty-fourth annual report to the City Council in the Report of the Librarian, which has been adopted by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

GEORGE H. TRIPP,

*Clerk of the Board.*

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

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*To the Trustees of the Free Public Library:*

The report which I am presenting to-day is the Eighty-fourth Annual Report of The Free Public Library of New Bedford. It is the duty of the Librarian in this report to give a somewhat detailed account of the activities in the various departments of the library during the year.

In a remarkable volume called "The Anatomy of Bibliomania," by Holbrook Jackson, is a succession of short paragraphs giving the author's idea of the value of libraries. He says,

"Libraries are the best consolation, retreats, harbors, refuges of the soul of man."

"A city without a library is a desert and undesirable place."

"Libraries are the mines where all may dig; the coverts which all may beat; the rivers in which all may angle."

"They are a land flowing with milk and honey where all are fed according to their taste, and where luxury and necessity are equally accessible to all."

"They are the glory of modern cities."

The panegyric thus quoted gives library workers a model for emulation and a stimulus to endeavor.

The book collection in the library numbers practically 200,000. These books, if standing upright in close formation, would extend a distance of eight miles. They are

stored for use in the Main Library, in three branches, in the High School, two Junior High Schools, and two hundred elementary school rooms.

#### MAIN DESK

The main desk is usually the scene of great activity especially in the late morning and afternoon. Besides issuing book cards, and receiving and distributing books, the attendants at that desk look after overdues, sending messages for their recovery, collect fines, and perform various statistical tasks, which makes the "book-keeping" at that desk an important part of library service. The collection of statistics will be printed in an appendix to this formal report.

Another feature of the work at the desk is the ever increasing demand for book reservations. As an illustration of the phenomenal demand for a very popular book, there were over 170 reservations made for the recently published, "Gone With the Wind." It takes a number of copies of a very popular book like that to begin to meet the demand. Of course these books which are reserved for applicants are not confined to fiction, but cover all branches of literature where there is a demand.

Very different from the old type of libraries, all libraries borrow and lend freely. We have occasion to borrow from the Boston Library, the Institute of Technology, and other larger institutions. We are very liberal in lending to out-of-town libraries, especially small libraries in this section. In 1936 we lent books to twenty-seven different towns. Frequently, in addition to that, we lend certain individual books to libraries far away from New Bedford. In lending to neighboring towns we make the provision that books under six months from publication cannot be loaned.

We receive many requests from CCC Camps for books which have outlived their usefulness in our library; but

seem to be very acceptable to camps. We have sent books to CCC Camps in North Adams, Danbury, Ct., and one or more camps in Vermont and New Hampshire. In all these camps there are New Bedford boys, but regardless of that we should have responded to their request in any event.

We also consider it a privilege, and a duty, to supply books for lightship service.

#### ART ROOM

An interesting addition was made to the picture collection by the purchase of 200 photographs published by the Photographic History Service of Hollywood. These pictures are of extreme interest for their costumes and historical importance. They are taken from films bearing on biographical and historical themes. In this room there is a large demand for books on photography, antiques, design, and the opera. From this centre are distributed pictures which go into use in the public schools. The circulation of such pictures during the past year numbered 26,533.

#### GENEALOGICAL ROOM

As usual the resources of the Genealogical Room have been called on extensively, not only by people in the city, but often in response to letters from distant places, since our collection of genealogies is one of the very best in New England.

Clippings from the daily papers, and other sources, have been cut and pasted in scrap books. Obituaries of well-known New Bedford men have been preserved and catalogued; coats of arms have been catalogued and filed.

A recent subscription to the American Genealogical Card Index, prepared by a Society with a Wesleyan College Professor at the head, bids fair to become extremely useful. Already several hundred cards have been received and properly filed.

There is always a demand from High School pupils for books bearing on New Bedford history.

A welcome addition to the books of local history is the book on Martha's Vineyard and Oak Bluffs written by Henry B. Hough.

The clipping of genealogical items from the Boston Transcript has been carried on for a long term of years and is practically up-to-date.

Local matters contained in the Boston Sunday Globe column are cut out and pasted in scrap books.

#### REFERENCE ROOM

Many questions have come to this department during the year past, often-times over the telephone. There are some questions which appear at frequent intervals, such as those pertaining to civil service, boilers and engineering, particularly Diesel engines. Some idea of the variety of questions asked may be gained from the following:

- Elephants—how used by Hannibal.
- History of secretaryship.
- Organizing a mill town, by a company.
- Hairdressing of forty years ago.
- Aids for the blind ("seeing eye" dogs).
- The Molly Maguires (secret society).
- Four-wheel drive automobile.
- Rhythm band.
- Questions arising because of the abdication of King Edward VIII.
- How to build brick steps.

Concerning the inquiry on brick steps. It should be understood that the Information Department doesn't guarantee that all questions can be answered at once, or that the answers are on tap ready for a faucet to be turned to draw the information from the Head of the Department, or

from anyone else in the library, but it is validly claimed that most questioners can be guided toward the proper answer of which they are in search. Many books on the subject of brick work were consulted with no satisfactory results. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology was called on, no tangible results there, but the information was finally obtained to the satisfaction of the questioner from a local contractor who has had long experience in that kind of work.

A man wished to import some goats. It was suggested that he write to government authorities for the needed information. This he did and he has since reported that by so doing it cost him fifty-three cents, instead of Thirty Dollars.

School children bring questions to be answered in preparing their lessons.

As a member of the Business and Professional Woman's Club, the assistant Reference Librarian gave a talk before the Club on, "The Opportunity for Adult Education in the Library." During the coming year, under the sponsorship of this Club's Speakers' Bureau on Vocational Guidance, she expects to present the subject of "Library Work as a Vocation," to girls at the Continuation School, and to other groups of local girls. She has prepared lists of books on vocational guidance to be distributed to these groups.

It is interesting to note that of the books circulated from this room, among the non-fiction, exclusive of magazines, the greatest number were those pertaining to the useful arts, literature, and sociology.

The floor in the Reference Room is in great need of repair. This room and the Juvenile Room have cork-covered floors which have been in use since 1910 when we came into this building. Many repairs have been made until it reached a point where it seemed that the old floor must have a new covering or extensive repairs, but finances did not allow, so it has been held in abeyance until either the city finances should permit, or a government agency could undertake the work.

## INGRAHAM HALL.

Ingraham Hall, named in honor of our first Librarian, is the main reading room in which can be found a large collection of books on all subjects, classified for the convenience of the public. These books may be taken from the room by card-holders when charged at the desk in that room. This service seems to be very much appreciated by the general public and the department proves to be very popular.

## JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

The Librarian in charge of that department reports that it is not only a circulating library for children's books, but a centre for developing childhood interests. Among the interesting questions from the children were, "Have you Greek myths and 'leggings'?" ; "What are kitchen middens?" ; "What was Bird-cage Walk?" ; "Is Polly Sharp in?"

In spare time, where there is any, children's books are mended daily, and many volumes have been carefully rebound.

During Book Week the Juvenile Room was particularly attractive with a merry-go-round in gala array displaying the new fall juveniles. Children, parents, and teachers showed an unusual interest in the new literature for boys and girls. Over 600 colorful book-marks representing book characters, made by the assistants in the Children's Room, were distributed to interested Juvenile borrowers. Informative book-lists were also circulated. A Vacation Summer Reading Club was started. Over 200 Club Members received diplomas showing their reading activities during the summer. A much needed large bulletin board has been recently added.

From the Juvenile Department are sent out the books for the School Rooms; practically 200 school rooms are supplied with 9,000 or more juvenile books. This service

started in 1911. These books have been carefully selected, not as school supplementary books, but books which a well-read father would buy for his children. The only restriction on their use is that they must not be used by the teachers as rewards or punishments. The circulation of these books in the various schools, for last year, amounted to 143,266.

### CLASSES

Teachers from outlying districts have visited the Juvenile Room. One of the most interesting visitors was the much praised and advertised author, Patience Abbe, who with her brother wrote "Around the World in Eleven Years."

### BRANCHES

#### NORTH BRANCH

The North Branch activities were carried on as usual. Every year shows more and more the absolute need of a new location for this Branch that will in some way compare with the building at the South Branch on Cove Street. The present location is fully a mile, to a mile and a half, out of the north centre of activities. Most of the demand for books comes from those living either North or West of the present location.

At this branch the children are usually sent home at seven that the older people may enjoy the privileges of the library without undue interruption. The children use the Reading Room for home work, getting help from the reference books, etc.

We are sorry to note that some of the readers, not only in the branches, but at the Main Library—in spite of all the care and oversight of the assistants — do more or less mutilating in order to get information on their subjects without undue labor. All over the country this is a prevalent

complaint which seems very difficult to overcome in spite of the insistent watchfulness of the attendants.

Books in this Branch have been freshened and repaired by new backings and re-lettering titles.

The circulation of books at the branches, as in the Main Library, is not an index of the amount of reading and study carried on. Our Reading Rooms, and especially the Reference Department, are crowded, and the opportunities seem to be appreciated.

As in the Main Library, questions come up which, of course, receive attention and answers as far as possible. One question in the North Branch was, "How to prevent cannibalism among rabbits," and one little girl wanted to "spend a real Christmas with a kind couple."

Miss Marjorie Cobb, who was for six years with the North Branch, was transferred to the Main Library, and her place was taken by Miss Elizabeth V. Stephenson.

#### SOUTH BRANCH

The South Branch has pursued its usual course of successful distribution of books. Two valuable assistants, Miss Helene Ledoux and Miss Catherine A. Chase were lost to the library during the year by marriage. Their places were filled by Miss Elsie Veeder, and Miss Paula Kennedy, who had served the library acceptably as substitutes for a number of years.

Story hours were held two and three times a week throughout the year for twenty-five children in each class. We know that they were hours of entertainment for the children, and we hope they served the double purpose of keeping the children off the streets, and of making them more familiar with the books in the library.

The South Branch wishes to extend to the Police Department thanks for valuable service which greatly aided the discipline of this branch.

Thanks are due to Miss Mary Akin, Rev. and Mrs. Arthur O. Dewey, Miss Mabel Hutchinson, and Mrs. Oliver Prescott, Sr. for valuable gifts of books.

The customary Christmas celebration was held with the same enthusiastic appreciation which always attends this annual festival.

#### WEST BRANCH

The West Branch shows increase in the circulation of books. During the summer a Reading Contest was held for children up to the eighth grade; out of thirty-eight entries, nineteen finished the book reviews and received diplomas.

The Reading Room, on the lower floor, conducted by Mrs. Florence E. Perry, proved a very successful venture, utilizing the space formerly used by the Police Department. This reading room, open afternoons and evenings, offers much enjoyment to the people who want to read the current newspapers and magazines.

#### GIFTS

We are frequently receiving gifts from individuals and from estates. From the estate of Miss Amelia Jones we received a copy of the original painting, "New Bedford Fifty Years Ago." Mr. Wall, the artist, painted several copies of that, so there are one or two originals which might fairly be called the "first copies" of the painting, since they were practically all executed at the same time.

An extremely valuable gift came to us from Mr. Charles Townsend, Director of the New York Aquarium: "Distribution of certain whales as shown by logbook records of American whaleships," charts of the locality of whales caught by United States ships, classified as sperm whales, right whales, etc. These charts show the geographical location of whales caught largely by New Bedford

vessels, but also from other ports; this information obtained from log books. It perhaps will be appreciated that the labor entailed by Mr. Townsend, with the assistance of Mr. Richmond and Mr. Arthur C. Watson in running down this information which involved the examination of thousands of ship logs, was very great.

Visitors to the library from all parts of the world are welcomed very frequently. The unique and beautiful architecture of the building is commended most freely and enthusiastically by our out-of-town visitors.

The meetings which have been held in the library during the year, usually in the Lecture Hall, and sometimes in the Patent Room, number 691.

The Book Talks held on Monday afternoons during the winter months were given as usual, and very largely attended. The series for 1936 numbered twelve talks. The programme will be listed in the appendix.

In response to a request a list was compiled of the colloquial expressions used in New Bedford and vicinity. The list numbered 160. Of course, as a seaport town, there were a number of such terms that would not generally be used in inland localities.

The publications include the quarterly bulletins of books put into the library and a numbered list of whaling prints in the Newspaper Room which serves as a guide to the individual pictures. A suggestive list, "Books Worth Reading, both New and Old," was printed, this list being prepared by the Librarian and assistants.

It is worth noting that Mr. Reynolds, the printer, has performed a public service in printing for use by the public, and sold at very slight cost, various lists covering historical matters in the life of New Bedford. The list includes, besides a great many others, "The Story of the Charles W. Morgan."

During the twenty-six years that we have occupied this building some of the small pieces of mosaic of the floor, especially the floor in the main corridor, have become badly worn. During the last few weeks two men under the authority of the WPA have been diligently working repairing the floor. It is extremely slow work, as each little block has to be removed, and new blocks put in place, but the work is progressing steadily, and the results will, I am sure, be very satisfactory.

Four young women of the WPA workers have repaired and rebound 4,500 books, and classified Custom House papers. WPA workers on the "American Guide" have during the year utilized the resources of the Reference Room quite extensively.

The circulation of books from the Main library, branches and schools was 527,610. During a part of the year the income from our book funds, owing to the shifting of investments, was somewhat lessened. This immediately had an effect in somewhat reducing the circulation. The per capita circulation is nearly 5. The full statistical report will be published as an appendix to this report.

The fines collected in 1936 amounted to \$760.88; receipts from lost books and sales of waste paper amounted to \$70.92, making a total of \$831.80, which was turned over to the City Treasurer.

Again marriage has taken away two of our valued assistants, Miss Helen S. Kennedy and Miss Abbie F. Reed.

The work of the staff has, as usual, been extremely satisfactory, each one taking a direct interest in helping to maintain the good reputation of the library.

Thanks are tendered to the newspapers for their assistance in broadcasting, through the printed page, the matters of general interest which emanate from the library.

The janitor force has done good work during the year, and by a recent vote of the Board full elevator service is

now rendered, which will obviate complaints of the incomplete service which was furnished when only one elevator operator was in the service.

The thanks of the Librarian is extended to the Board of Trustees who have consistently upheld the Librarian and staff in their efforts to render good service.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE H. TRIPP,

Librarian.

**ANNUAL REPORT**

1936

**STATISTICS**

Population of New Bedford, January 1, 1936	
Assessors Estimate	109,898
Book Circulation	527,610
Main Library	210,335
Branch Libraries	166,244
School Collection	116,908
High School Library	5,291
Junior High Schools	21,067
St. Luke's Hospital	7,568
Inter-Library Loans	197
Pictures loaned	
Art Room 26,533; Genealogical Room 14	26,547
Book Collection, 1935	197,287
Books added, 1936	4,046
Book Collection, Net additions 1936	
Adult 1701; Juvenile, 442	2,143
199,430	
Volumes bound and rebound	3,459*
Periodicals received	308
Newspapers received	39
Borrowers, active (5 years registration)	33,640**
*Adult, Non Fiction	221
Adult, Fiction	586
Juvenile, Central	559
Juvenile School Collection	2,093
**Central, Adult	17,513
Central, Juvenile	8,155
Branches	
North	2,248
South	3,857
West	1,867

## APPROPRIATION

Appropriation	\$54,446.00
Salaries	\$36,864.38
Wages	13,891.62
Supplies	115.18
Janitor's Supplies	267.99
Repairs	312.69
Furniture	16.50
Lighting Branches	489.96
Heating Branches	399.70
Telephones	284.70
Express and Carting	110.78
Building miscellany	393.83
Library miscellany	78.54
Postage	59.06
Books	68.65
Periodicals	760.35
Insurance	80.40
	—————
	\$54,194.33
Balance	251.67
	—————
	\$54,446.00

## KEMPTON FUND

Balance	\$1.21
Receipts and Credits	8,430.96
	—————
	\$8,432.17
Books	\$4,613.04
Periodicals	851.41
Binding Books	1,649.44
Binding Periodicals	74.99
Printing	235.40
Supplies	606.95
Library miscellany	94.37
Postage	196.24
Stationery	3.00
Repairs	1.15
Express and Carting	99.55
	—————
	\$8,425.54
Balance	6.63
	—————
	\$8,432.17

## FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

## SYLVIA ANN HOWLAND FUND

Balance	\$7.72
Receipts and Credits	1,853.64
	—————
	\$1,861.36
Books	\$83.45
Periodicals	561.76
Binding Books	380.64
Binding Periodicals	34.91
Printing	267.50
Supplies	253.04
Janitor's Supplies	8.75
Library miscellany	172.22
Stationery	2.25
Repairs	20.00
Express and Carting	72.76
	—————
	\$1,857.28
Balance	4.08
	—————
	\$1,861.36

## GEORGE O. CROCKER FUND

Balance	\$15.65
Receipts and Credits	455.20
	—————
	\$470.85
Books	\$271.30
Periodicals	57.58
Supplies	4.65
Janitor's Supplies	5.95
Heating Branches	12.00
Printing	67.70
Library miscellany	2.25
	—————
	\$421.43
Balance	49.42
	—————
	\$470.85

## JAMES B. CONGDON FUND

Balance	\$7.77
Receipts and Credits	15.00
	—————
	\$22.77

## FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 p

Books	\$12.05
Periodicals	8.00
	—————
	\$20.05
Balance	2.72
	—————
	\$22.77

## CHARLES W. MORGAN FUND

Balance	\$2.03
Receipts and Credits	30.00
	—————
	\$32.03
Books	\$16.73
Periodicals	14.40
	—————
	\$31.13
Balance	.90
	—————
	\$32.03

## CHARLES L. WOOD FUND

Balance	\$8.10
Receipt and Credits	60.00
	—————
	\$68.10
Books	\$39.85
Periodicals	3.00
Binding Periodicals	16.35
Library miscellany	6.00
	—————
	\$65.20
Balance	2.90
	—————
	\$68.10

## GEORGE HOWLAND, JR. FUND

Balance	\$29.23
Receipts and Credits	48.00
	—————
	\$77.23
Books	\$33.79
Periodicals	3.30
Library miscellany	14.50
	—————
	\$51.59
Balance	25.64
	—————
	\$77.23

## FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

## OLIVER CROCKER FUND

Balance	\$4.67
Receipts and Credits	30.00
	—————
	\$34.67
Periodicals	\$5.00
Heating Branches	12.00
Library miscellany	14.50
	—————
	\$31.50
Balance	3.17
	—————
	\$34.67

## TOTAL EXPENDITURES

January 1, 1936 — December 31, 1936

Salaries	\$36,864.38
Wages	13,891.62
Books	5,138.86
Periodicals	2,264.80
Binding Books	2,030.08
Binding Periodicals	126.25
Supplies	979.82
Janitor's Supplies	282.69
Stationery	5.25
Repairs	333.84
Lighting Branches	489.96
Heating Branches	423.70
Postage	255.30
Telephones	284.70
Express and Carting	283.09
Printing	570.60
Furniture	16.50
Insurance	80.40
Library miscellany	382.38
Building miscellany	393.83
	—————
	\$65,098.05

# BOOK TALKS

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FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

New Bedford, Mass.

1936

## LECTURE HALL, ON MONDAYS

(Unless stated to the contrary, Book Talks will begin at 4.30)

Rev. Norman I. Bromley	January 6
“Moral Man and Immoral Society”	
Rev. H. B. Williams	January 13
Jane Addams and the Hull House	
Allen D. Currier	January 20
Cape Codders for an hour. ( <i>Illustrated</i> )	
Morris R. Brownell	January 27
Nichols, “Life of Dwight Morrow”	
Marie L. Parenti	February 3
Mrs. Lindbergh’s, “North to the Orient”	
Louis F. Ranlett	February 10
Books of J. Brooks Atkinson, follower of Thoreau.	
Anna Driscoll	February 17
Bliss Perry’s Autobiography, “And Gladly Teach”	
Rabbi Bernard H. Ziskind	February 24
“It Can’t Happen Here”, by Sinclair Lewis	
Rev. Leslie C. Greeley	March 2
Astonishing Personality of Mark Twain	
Oliver Prescott, Jr.	March 9
“The Founding of Harvard College,” by Samuel Eliot Morison.	
Galen W. Hill	March 16
Three Selected Best-Sellers of the Season	
William A. Wing	March 23
Early Literary New Bedford	

ANNUAL REPORT

Free Public Library

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN,

February 11, 1937.

Received, placed on file, and sent down for concurrence.

RODOLPHUS A. SWAN,

City Clerk

IN COMMON COUNCIL,

February 11, 1937.

Concurred.

RUTH HILTON MORRISON,

Clerk

Attest:

RODOLPHUS A. SWAN,

City Clerk